

M: 26/16/13

Rock Terrace Elementary School

390 Martin's Lane, Rockville

Public

Built: 1951

Builder: L.J. Keller & Sons

Rock Terrace School is the most recent and only remaining elementary school building which was used for black students in Rockville. It symbolizes the segregated public education system which existed in Montgomery County from 1872 through 1961. The much enlarged international style-influenced brick building was planned as part of a 30 acre educational campus for black students that also included a high school and junior college.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. ^M 24/16/13

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ noNR eligible: ☒ yes ☐ no
Contrib. element in H.D. ☒

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rock Terrace Elementary School

and/or common Rock Terrace High School

2. Location

street & number 390 Martin's Lane ☐ not for publicationcity, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Montgomery County Board of Education

street & number 850 Hungerford Drive telephone no.:

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 1191

street & number folio 449

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Rock Terrace School, the former Rock Terrace Colored Elementary School is a typical example of school buildings of the 1950s. Built of brick and concrete with steel reinforcing, it shows its international style influence with its flat-roofed box shape, horizontal emphasis, flat facade with textural variation both in brick and window treatment, and broad expanses of steel-casement windows. Originally planned as part of a campus that included a high school and a junior college, athletic fields and a track, it has numerous additions and has been modified by the reduction of window space and new exterior treatment.

The 30.65 acre educational campus site plan (Attachment 7.3) shows Rock Terrace school as a two-segment building, roughly "L"-shaped, on the corner of Martin's Lane and Manakee (then Norris) Street. It had one addition immediately after construction as the 1952 "Street Map of Rockville" (Attachment 7.4) shows the "Negro Elementary School" footprint as a three-section building. It continued to expand with the years. By 1988, at least six different additions have been added.

Of the original two segment plan, one segment faced Manakee and the other was diagonal to the corner. Only the diagonal portion relatively unaltered; the Manakee part has been extended and partially obscured by a white cinder-block addition that is much more vertical with projecting cinderblock "fins" and windows between them in deep recess.

The diagonal building has a low, one-story brick utilities building with white capstone course on the east which has one plain brick smokestack. It is unrelieved except for a north (rear) exterior door and vents. The three-bay main body has a three-section window unit on the upper half of the east bay; each section is composed of five horizontal lights. The window surrounds are of the same greyish-white stone as the capstone. The center bay is a steel exterior double door unit, each with three lights. Triangular concrete panels project from either side of the door, with the widest portion at the top, which is covered with a slab to form a protective hood or portico at the entrance. The west bay is a large four-section window wall, each section composed of eight horizontal lights. There is a gray-white stone sill and a wide wooden lintel, painted white. The remainder of the west portion of the facade is a brick wall relieved by four raised square brick panels.

Continued on Attachment 7.1

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Architectural Description (continued):
Rock Terrace School

A one-story main entry connects the east portion to the new cinder-block section. It is a cantilevered flat roof with one steel support post, projecting about 10 feet beyond the entry wall, with its set of double steel doors.

North of the new cinder-block section is another low, horizontal brick wing with steel multi-light casement windows covering about 2/3 of the facade. The top sections of these windows have been filled, leaving only the bottom two for visibility and ventilation. A single steel exterior door is at the extreme north end of this wing. This wing is in the same style as the original and appears to have been added shortly after the original building was constructed.

An auditorium building completes the Manakee portion of the complex. Several recent units have been constructed in the interior of the now "C"-shaped complex.

On the Martin's Lane side, another later wing of compatible design was added east of the original diagonal building, paralleling Martin's Lane. It is also brick, but of a slightly different hue, and has had its windows partly filled in. East of that wing is a section of garage bays and a loading platform.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

local history

Specific dates 1951 Builder/Architect (B) L.J. Keller & Sons

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rock Terrace School is the most recent and only remaining elementary school building which was used for black students in Rockville. It symbolizes the segregated public education system which existed in Montgomery County from 1872 through 1961.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA: ATTACHMENT 8.5
ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA: ATTACHMENT 8.5

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Maryland established a "separate but equal" system of public education for its colored citizens in 1872; Montgomery County's Board of School Commissioners met in August of that year to discuss implementing the State goal of one free school in each election district for colored children between six and twenty years of age. State and County funds were allocated, petitions by colored citizens were considered, properties were offered and purchased, existing structures were designated and new ones constructed, and teachers were hired. 1/

In 1876, the Board appropriated \$600 to purchase a lot and build a schoolhouse in Rockville. Attorney William Veirs Bouic and his wife Mary sold 10-1/4 square perches (part of Lot 34 enlarged) on the west side of the Frederick Road for \$200 to the Board of School Commissioners. 2/ Plans were drawn and the schoolhouse was built in that year.

Continued on attachment 8.1

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
Rock Terrace School

From the start, colored schools and students were short-changed by the Board. Small amounts were levied for construction and maintenance of schools or to rent church buildings. Colored teachers received less than half the salaries of whites, and supplies were meager or non-existent. Local trustees, often parents, took responsibility for furnishing necessities. Despite the hardships and inequities, Montgomery County's colored population believed in the power of education to bring about a change in their lives. 3/

School Board minutes and a 1912 survey by the Presbyterian Church provide insight into the details of operating a school system. Colored schools were open 140 days a year (white schools - 188 days), closing when the small budget was overspent or whenever they fell short of the legal average attendance requirement. Most of the frame buildings were more or less dilapidated, with non-adjustable desks and insufficient seating, and no musical instruments, cloak rooms, teachers' rooms, or play equipment. Several lacked water, sanitary toilets, and ample maps, charts, and globes.

Rockville Colored Elementary School received a second story in 1891 (at a cost of \$400), and funds were allocated for repairs in 1897 and 1899. Residents of Haiti, George W. Meads and Rezin Offutt, were paid for hauling books or scavenger work (privy cleaning).

Through the years, a number of black Rockvillians taught in Rockville schools; several, such as Katie Wood, Rosalie Campbell, Annie Procton Rhodes, and William Procton, were raised in Haiti. Other Rockville natives taught in other Montgomery County schools. A list of these Rockville black teachers is attached. (Attachment 8.5)

All teachers received salaries based upon their experience, and the individual school enrollment; generally, colored teachers' salaries were half those of whites. Teachers often served both as principals and as janitors for their schools. They usually purchased additional supplies to supplement the used books and few materials received from the School Board. They trained at Hampton Institute, Miner Teachers College, Morgan State, Bowie Normal School, and Howard University; they often attended summer school, with little or no assistance from the County. By the 1898-99 school year, Montgomery County had 144 public schools, of which 32 were colored; there were 40 teachers, 9 males and 31 females. 4/

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
Rock Terrace School

The Rockville Colored School burned on September 22, 1912. 5/ Classes were held in the basement of Jerusalem Methodist Church on Wood Lane for a number of years. Later they moved to Fishermen's Hall on North Washington Street. 6/

In the summer of 1916, William H. Johnson and George Meads, trustees of Rockville Colored School, asked the Board to purchase a lot from the Fisherman's organization on which to build a new schoolhouse; four years later a new school board approved the request. A lot on the east side of North Washington Street was purchased from Rezin Offutt, the local black community agreed to raise \$500 toward the price of the building, and the building was erected in July 1921 by contractor Harry G. Howes for a price of \$5925. 7/

The frame building had two stories, whitewash inside and out, and outdoor sanitary facilities. At the end of each school year, black students from all over the County gathered on the field behind the school to compete in athletic events and oratorical contests.

In the mid-1920's, Julius Rosenwald, an American merchant and philanthropist, established a fund which helped construct more than 5000 schools for black children around the country. In 1926, with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund and contributions from the County's black communities, a two-room high school was erected in Rockville, next to the elementary school, on the back lot on North Washington Street. It was the first black high school in Montgomery County, a long wooden yellow frame building with two classrooms connected by a small room used as a library and classroom. When the high school opened in September 1927, colored students traveled by bus, train, and foot from all over the County to take advantage of this opportunity. 8/

The high school was used until 1935, when Lincoln opened a mile away in Lincoln Park; 9/ the old building later was used to supplement the elementary school next door.

In 1936, Rockville Colored Elementary School was the setting for an historic event. William B. Gibbs, Jr., teacher and principal at the school, brought suit against the Montgomery County Board of Education to correct inequities in the salaries of black and white teachers; on the average, a black teacher's pay was half that of a white with equal qualifications. As Mr. Gibbs had volunteered as a litigant on behalf of all Montgomery County black teachers, the NAACP provided attorneys (one of whom was Thurgood Marshall), and the Maryland Teachers

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
Rock Terrace School

Association and Montgomery County Black Teachers agreed to help support Mr. Gibbs financially should he lose his job as a result of the suit. Six black Rockville homeowners, including two on Martin's Lane, offered to mortgage their homes. Mr. Gibbs did not lose his case, but his contract was not renewed and he moved to Philadelphia. The case was settled out of court, with black teachers' salaries increased the following two years, until they equalled those of whites. The school term was also equalized. 10/

Through the years, some black teachers were active in Civil Rights issues, and in 1946 some helped to reorganize the Montgomery County chapter of the NAACP. Most black teachers were members of the NAACP, supporting it with contributions over and above dues. However, for the most part black teachers worked in the background because the NAACP was regarded as subversive and their jobs would have been at stake.

In 1939-40, Rockville Elementary had the largest enrollment of any colored elementary in the County --251 students.

The Citizens Council for Mutual Improvement, made up of concerned black citizens such as Alphonzo Lee, Romeo Horad, and Edward Johnson, made a survey of County Schools and facilities in 1948. They reported conditions "deplorable" and unsafe. Rockville businessmen Jesse (Tom) Meads (deliveryman), Claude (Toby) Prather (poolroom operator), George (Mr. T.) Johnson (restauranteur), and Robert (Mike) Snowden (undertaker), among others, appeared before the Board of Education and labeled the colored schools "dumps." The Board responded with additions for Rockville Elementary, a quonset hut remodeled for use as Lincoln High's gymnasium-auditorium, and plans for the new G.W. Carver Senior High School and Junior College in Rockville. 11/

This was also a period of consolidation. Four large schools were constructed in the 1950's: Longview at Emory Grove near Gaithersburg, Rock Terrace, Taylor in Boyds, and Sandy Spring. Rock Terrace combined students from Quince Orchard (a three-room school), Scotland, Rockville, and Norbeck, where teachers formerly worked with students in two to four different grades in one classroom.

Land for Rock Terrace school, at the west end of Martin's Lane, was purchased in 1948 from the Ward and Welsh families. 11/ Builder L.J. Keller and Sons constructed the school for \$240,000, using the same plans used for Longview to save costs. Just to the north, Carver Senior High School and Junior College was built at the same time.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
Rock Terrace School

Rock Terrace opened in September 1951 with Margaret T. Jones, 20-year veteran and last supervisor for the black public schools, as principal. Each teacher was responsible for only one grade, with 30 to 35 students in a class. 12/ The abandoned school property on North Washington Street was sold to N. Richard Kimmel in 1954 for \$47,000. 13/

Rock Terrace remained a colored elementary school until integration came to Montgomery County. The Board of Education appointed an Advisory Committee on Integration which devised a complicated system of desegregation, gradually merging white and black students into schools close to home.

Despite the protests of a number of organizations and individuals, the Board proceeded slowly but surely toward eventual integration in the 1960-61 school year, thus ending 89 years of separate and unequal public education for Montgomery County's black student population.

Margaret T. Jones, principal of Rock Terrace, was the first black principal assigned to an all-white school in the County. Gerald G. Reymore, Sherwood High School Teacher and assistant to Superintendent C. Taylor Whittier, became the first white principal of a formerly all-black school; he replaced Mrs. Jones at Rock Terrace. 14/

Rock Terrace was converted to a high school for Special Education students in 1961. Dr. Louis Monk was its first principal, serving from 1961 to 1976.

Footnotes:

1. Clarke, Nina H. and Lillian B. Brown, History of the Black Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland 1872-1961, pp. 1-4
2. Montgomery County Land Records EBP15/467
3. Clarke, Op Cit
4. Clarke, Op Cit, pp.9-38
5. Jewell, E. Guy, "Schools that Were", unpublished manuscript at Montgomery County Historical Society
6. Interviews with Rosalie Campbell and Annie Rhodes February, 1988 and Clarke, Op Cit, p. 27.
7. Jewell, Op Cit and Clarke, Op Cit
8. Clarke, Op Cit, p. 45, Interview with Campbell, Rhodes, Clarke
9. See MHT form M:26/15/03.
10. Duffin, Sharyn, "The Pioneer Teacher's Salary Discrepancy Case, Montgomery County, 1936", unpublished manuscript.
11. Clarke, Op Cit, pp. 67-80.
12. Interviews with Rosalie Campbell, 1984 and 1988.
13. Clarke, Op Cit, p.129
14. Clarke, Op Cit, pp. 101-131.

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10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale _____

Protein	Percentage (%)
P	85
S	75
L	15
M	10
N	10
O	10
P	10
Q	10
R	10
S	10
T	10
U	10
V	10
W	10
X	10
Y	10
Z	10

11. Form Prepared By

PS-2746

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SECTION 8 PAGE 5

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
Rock Terrace School

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Settlement/Political
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building
Setting: Urban
Historic Function(s) or Use(s): Education/school/schoolhouse
Known Design Source: None

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, Rockville
2. Chronological Period(s):
County Seat to Satellite City: A.D. 1931-present
3. Historic Context Theme(s): Social/Educational/Cultural
4. Resource Type:
Category : Building
Setting: Urban
Historic Function(s) or Use: Education/school/schoolhouse
Known Design Source: None

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
Rock Terrace School

Black Rockville natives who taught in the Schools of Rockville

<u>Date</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>School</u>
1881	Horace Sedgwick	Rockville Colored Elem. School
1890	William Procton	Scotland, prev. at Rockville Elem.
1895	Katie Wood	Rockville Colored Elem. School
1902	Marie Letcher Johnson	Rockville Colored Elem. School
1907	Louise Hicks	Rockville Colored Elem. School
1950	Rosalie Campbell	Rock Terrace Elem. School;
		West Rockville Elem. School *
1950	Annie Procton Rhodes	Rock Terrace Elem. School
	Bessie Hill Corbin	Carver High School
	Irene Snowden Curry	Lincoln High School
	Edith Jackson Gregg	traveling music teacher, College
		Gardens Elem. School *
		Clarksburg Elem. School *
	Watson Prather, Jr.	Julius West Middle School *
1960s	Helen Baker Weaver	Richard Montgomery High School *

Black Rockville natives who taught in other schools of Montgomery Co.

1919	Clementine Sedgwick Smith	Scotland Colored School
1936-41	Lorraine Johnson La Vett	Quince Orchard Colored Elem. School
1937	Sarah Meads Snowden	Emory Grove Elem. School
1937	Claude N. Prather, Sr.	substitute teacher
	Elizabeth Hartman	Quince Orchard Colored Elem. School
	Warren Crutchfield	Sherwood High School *
	Gloria Smith	Damascus High School *
	Diane Thomas Hill	Rock Terrace Elem. School and
		Damascus High School *
	Beverley Hawkins Canady	Woodward High School *
	Lillian B. (Bea) Brown	West Rockville Elem. School *;
		previously taught in Germantown
		Colored School, and Long View
		Elem. School; Woodlin Elem. School
	Evelyn Lee	Kengar Elementary School
	Adele Lee White	substitute teacher

* integrated school

Information from Nina H. Clarke, 1988



M:26/16/13 Rock Terrace School
390 Martin's Lane
Rockville, Montgomery Co.MD
1/200 scale (1978 map)



Rock Terrace School
M: 26/16/B
390 Martins Ln
S.W. facade
Jchtstensen